

EPISODE #96
September 23, 1993

the Valley 66 COMIC N . E . W . S



ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS!!

STORIES:
BEYOND POLITIX
CAPITAL OFFENSE
WAR AND/OR PEACE
THIS & THAT

INSIDE

FEATURES: THE FAR SIDE,
DOONESBURY,
CALVIN & HOBBS,
VIEWS OF THE WORLD,
JOE BOB BRIGGS, LEOLD,
IZZY GESELL'S *HUMOR ME*,
THIS MODERN WORLD,
DREAM WORLD NEWS,
TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT,
L.A. CUCARACHA,
LOCAL HEROES,
EARTHWEEK



Scenes

Summer Squash Lettuce Celery

Chives Cucumbers Green Beans Cucumbers

Zucchini Walnuts Grapes Watermelon

Chilis Sweet Corn Bananas Oranges

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PAGE THREE

by Mike Chrisman



How many times has this happened to you? You come home at the end of the day. It's late. You're beat. All you wanna do is listen to your phone messages, because you're positive there's one from that gorgeous human you met yesterday, plus you're pretty sure Robert Altman called to say he loved your story idea. You reach for your telephone answering machine. You hit Play. If you're like me, here's what you get:

"Please hang up and try your call again. If you need assistance, dial your operator. Please hang up now, because the following insane screeching noises will make your ears bleed and rupture several important internal organs. This is a recording." Then you slug the answering machine with a five-pound hammer.

Today, after this happened for the seventh time this week, I thought I'd try a less violent approach: I called New England Telephone (They're the One for Me, New England). A woman at the Pittsfield number told me this sort of thing is a problem *only* with General Electric answering machines, which hers is, and both of mine are. So I called GE customer service. They said it's the *phone lines* — that there's static on them after somebody hangs up, so the machine thinks the line is still live. I was starting to feel like a tennis ball.

Whack! Back over to New England Tel. The rocket scientist manning the *first* repair line swore it was because people weren't hanging up properly after they heard my message. *Not hanging up properly?* I'd just had *five* of these things *in a row* on my business phone. I said to him, "So *all five* people who called me yesterday on my business phone need training in replacing the receiver?" He said, "I'm sorry, sir — that's what's happening."

Whack! Over to New England Tel's *second* repair line, where I *finally* got somebody who was absolutely truthful and knew what he was talking about. I knew this because he said, "I don't have the slightest idea why that happens, and neither does anybody else. It happens on *my* machine, too." I asked him what kind of machine he has. It's AT&T. He further explained that the problem is some *defect in the phone lines*, like our friend at GE had suggested. Who'd o' thunk it?

So I asked this repair dude whether anybody at New England Tel is working on this, being as the lines got their name on 'em. He said either: "Not as far as I know," or "In a pig's eye," I'm not sure which. Then I had a brilliant idea: if *anybody* knows whether our nation's best minds are agonizing long hours over this critical dilemma, it's the Head Honcho at New England Tel. That would be:

Mr. Don Reed, CEO
New England Telephone
185 Franklin St. 9th Fl.
Boston, Mass. 02110

I didn't call him, because I ran out of time before this column was due. But I figured a letter might be just as good, especially if I could get other people to back me up. So here's the deal: if you're as sick as I am of having your answering machine make those alien screeching noises that disintegrate your dental fillings, simply clip this column and send it to Mr. Reed, who I'm sure is unaware of the problem's magnitude, since he undoubtedly carries a cellular phone (fringe benefit) with him wherever he goes. He probably doesn't even *own* an answering machine! Maybe he can just hire one of those unemployed aerospace engineers to solve the problem; that way it'd be part of the "peace dividend." OK, Mr. Reed? Whack!

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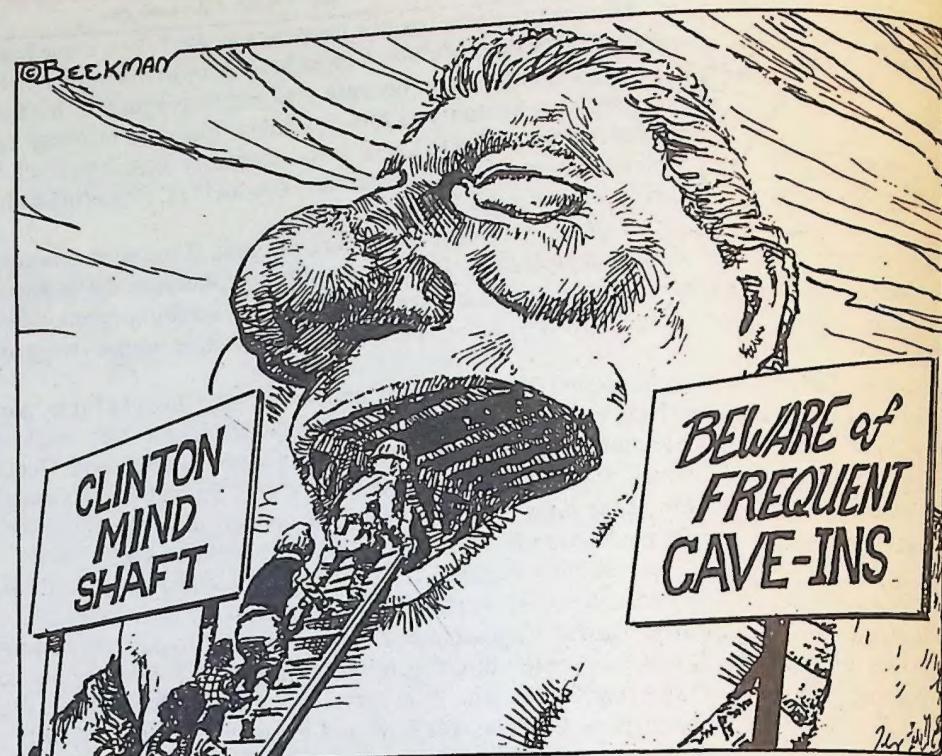
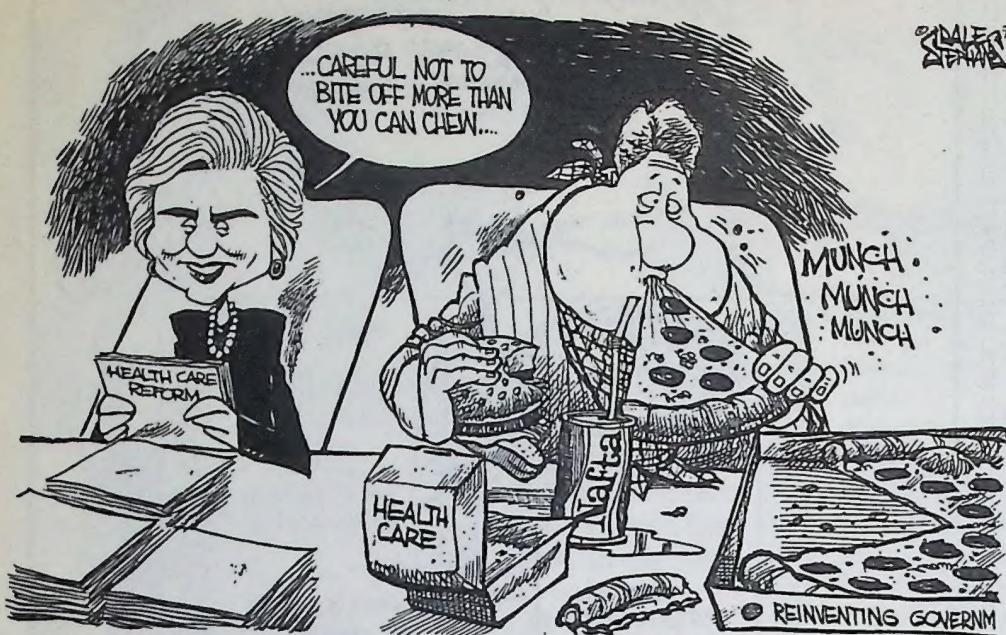


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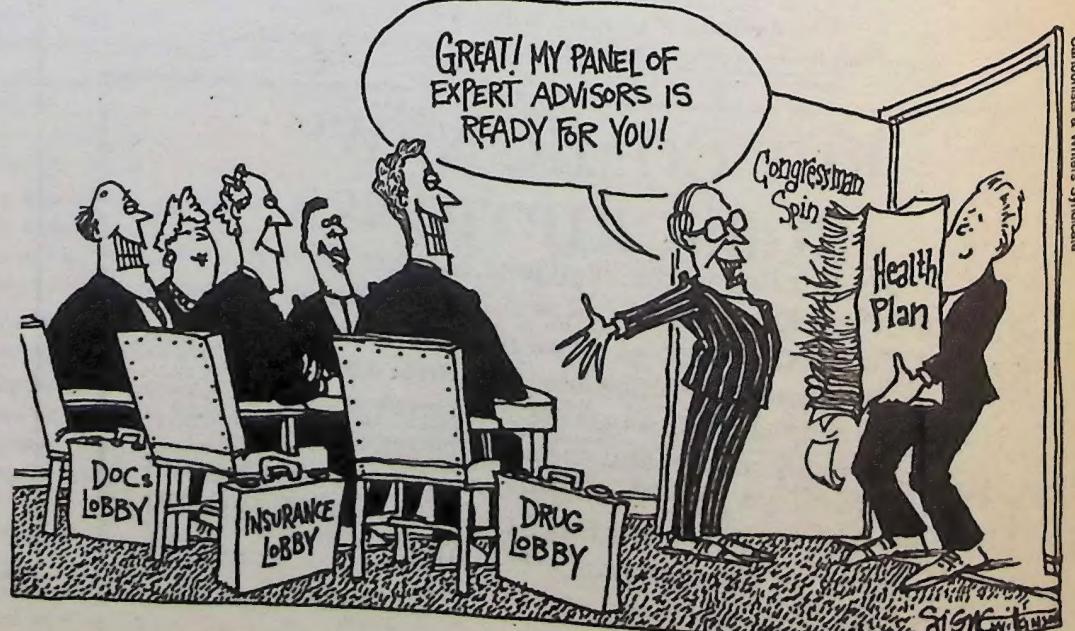
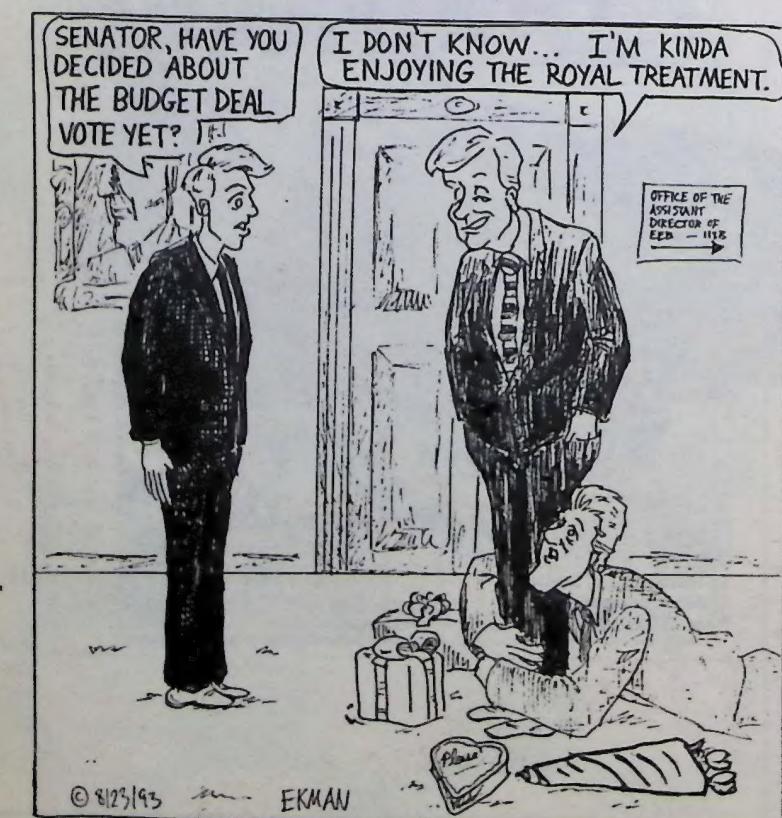
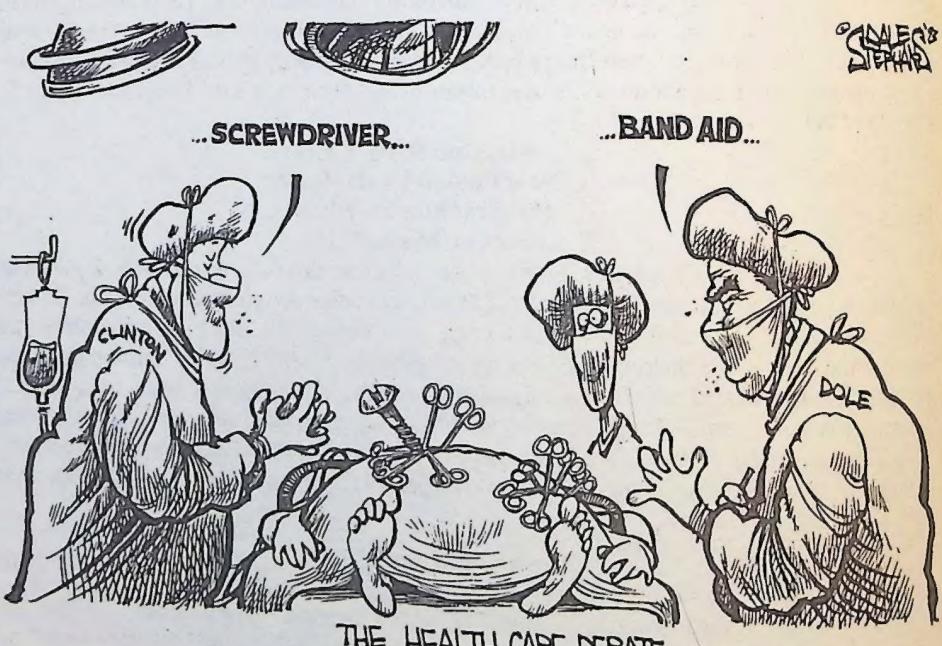
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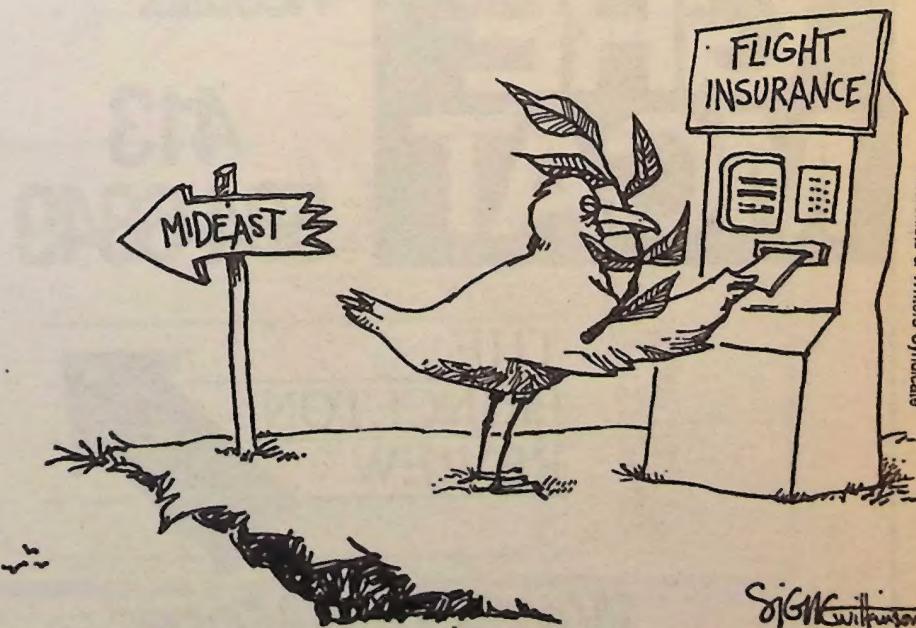
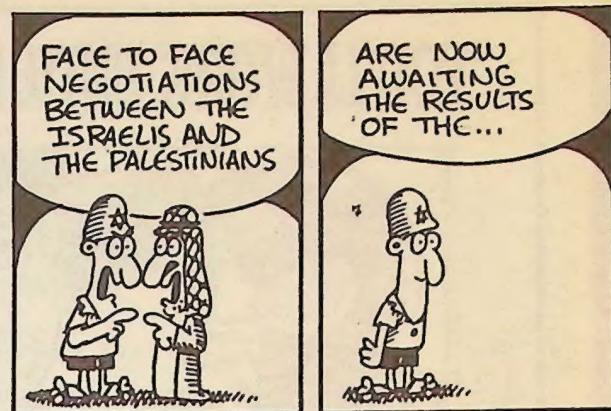
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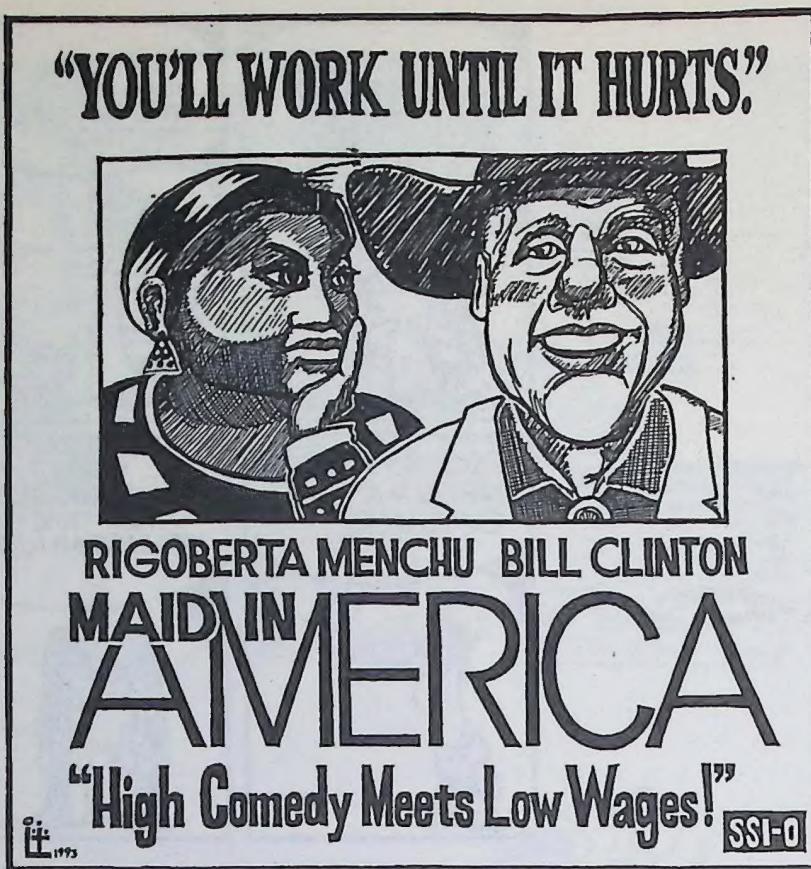


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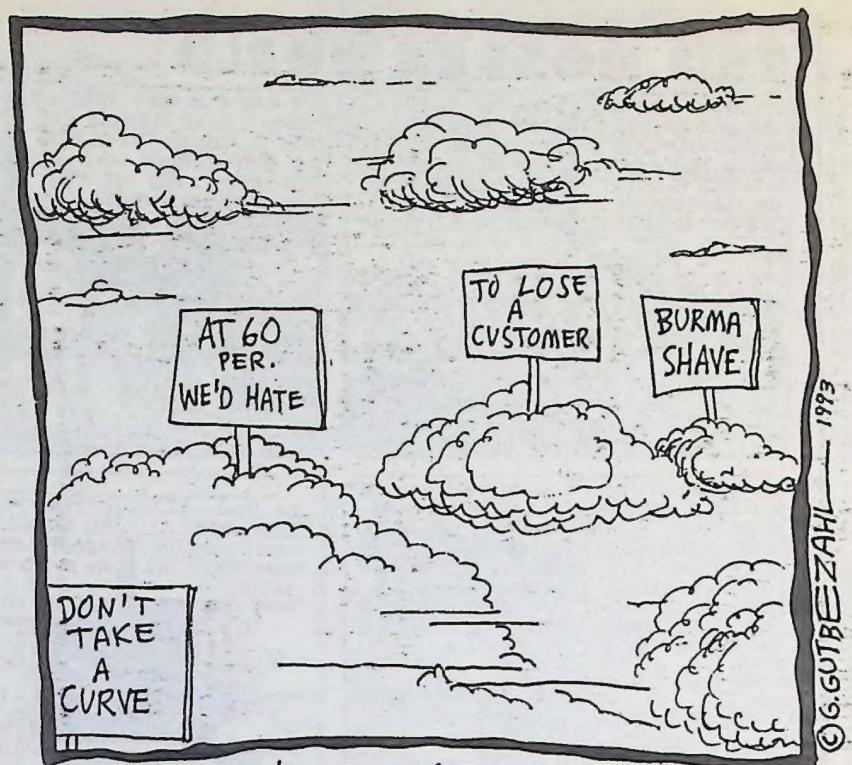
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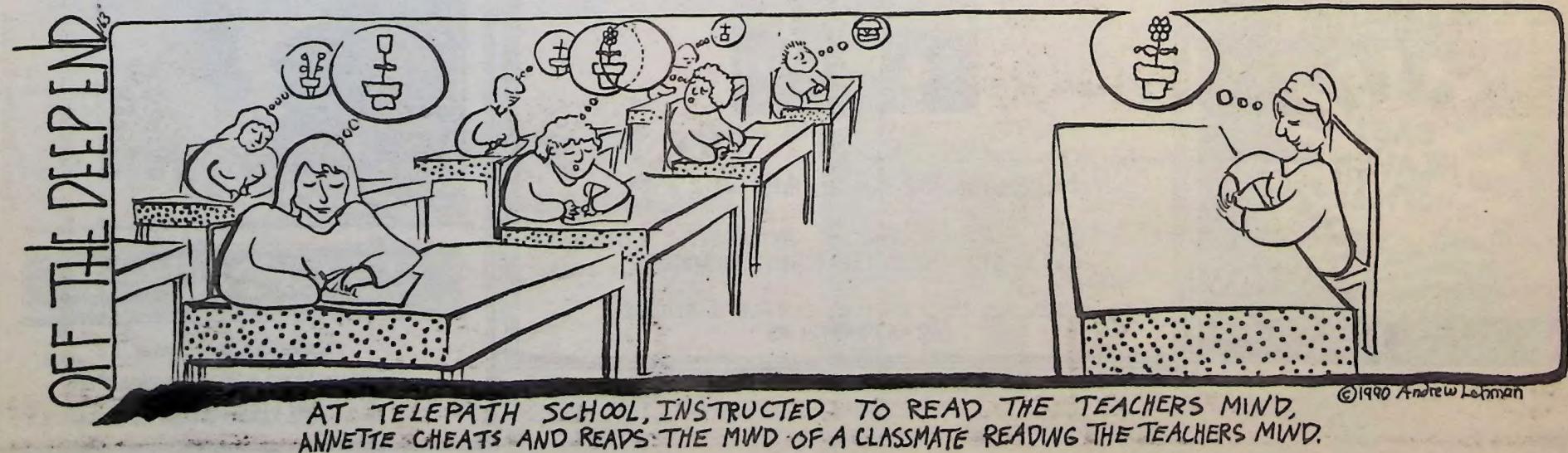


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THIS MODERN WORLD BY TOM TOMORROW

THIS MODERN WORLD

TM TOMORROW 09-14-93

ECONOMISTS MAKE THEIR PREDICTIONS BY STUDYING ARCANE STATISTICS ON COMPUTER SCREENS--MUCH LIKE SOOTHSAVERS ATTEMPTING TO DIVINE THE FUTURE FROM PIG ENTRAILS--AND WITH ABOUT AS MUCH ACCURACY...

THIS TIME I'M CERTAIN--THE RECOVERY'S GOING TO BEGIN ANY DAY NOW...

...UNLESS IT DOESN'T...



CALL US CYNICS, BUT WE'RE NOT SURE IT WILL BE THAT EASY... PARTICULARLY CONSIDERING THAT MODERN TECHNOLOGY, CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, MAY ACTUALLY BE ELIMINATING MORE JOBS THAN IT IS CREATING--AS EXEMPLIFIED BY THE 47,000 POSTAL WORKERS ABOUT TO BE REPLACED BY COMPUTERS...

MAYBE WE CAN RETRAIN THEM TO BE ECONOMISTS...

ULP!

THE U.S. ECONOMY IS UNDERGOING FUNDAMENTAL UPHEAVALS... WORKERS ARE BEING LAID OFF IN DROVES, MANUFACTURING JOBS ARE DISAPPEARING OVERSEAS, AND THE SINGLE LARGEST EMPLOYER IN THIS COUNTRY IS A TEMP AGENCY... BUT DON'T WORRY--THE EXPERTS HAVE A SOLUTION...

YES--WE'LL SIMPLY RETRAIN EVERYONE!

...IN SOME VAGUE AND UN-SPECIFIED MANNER...



BASICALLY, THERE JUST MAY NOT BE ENOUGH JOBS TO GO AROUND ANYMORE... BUT WE FEEL CONFIDENT THAT TECHNOLOGY WILL PROVIDE SOME SORT OF SOLUTION...

HEY--THIS IS GREAT! I'M SITTING AT A DESK IN AN OFFICE!

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THIS MODERN WORLD

TM TOMORROW 08-24-93

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YES--FOR INSTANCE, DESPITE MEXICO'S APPALING ENVIRONMENTAL RECORD, WE ARE TOLD THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY--BECAUSE THEY PROMISE TO DO BETTER FROM NOW ON!



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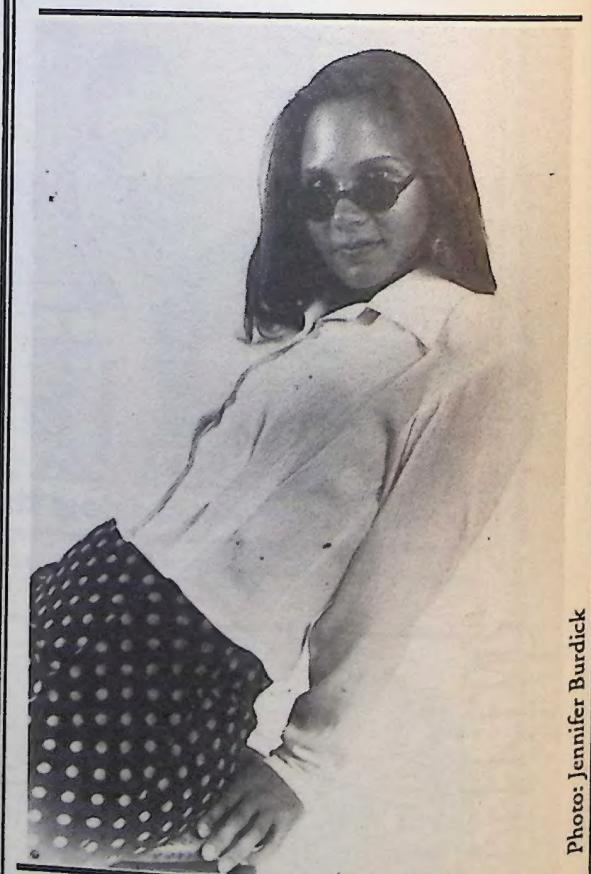


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JOE BOB BRIGGS

Well, it finally happened. We built so many jails we ran out of criminals to stick in 'em.

Nassau County, New York, spent 100 million bucks on a new county jail, complete with a Star Trek Surveillance System and every kind of gadget you can buy for keepin' cons in the can. They had everything but robots fry-cooking in the mess hall. And then they finally opened the sucker up — and they only had 400 inmates to put in it.

They panicked. They're probly still out there, arrestin' jaywalkers in Massapequa, trying to justify their investment.

But this is what happened when the Republicans took over in 1980. Their answer to crime was to build new prisons. They thought if we built enough new prisons, we could toss everybody inside that was dealin' drugs or shootin' old ladies or rapin' teenage girls, and pretty soon the ones that were left would be too scared to commit crimes themselves.

The theory was, "If we just scare the bejeebers out of 'em, they'll straighten up." So they ordered a lot

of mandatory sentences, too. If you do the crime, you do the time. No excuses. No time off for being a nice guy. No exceptions.

So let's take a look at what happened. In Texas, there were 224,000 prisoners in 1984.

Six years later, there were 356,000 cons doing time — an increase of 59 *goldurn per cent!*

So the first part of the solution worked. We did go arrest those suckers and throw their hineys in the pokey.

Let's look at the expected result.

Did anybody get scared off and stop committing crimes?

Uh-oh.

Looks like the crime rate *rose* 30 per cent during those same years.

What should we do now? Throw 150,000 *more* people in jail in the *next six years?*

With all these people in jail, you would think it would eventually result in a *decrease* in the number of *available* criminals. Or at least we wouldn't be able to buy *new* stereos fast enough to replace the ones that

were already stolen, before they let the burglars back out of prison to steal the fresh ones.

You know what I mean here? Something's wrong with this idea.

I'll tell you what it is.

The only reason people like to build new prisons and throw drug dealers in there, and not give 'em any chance of parole, and make sure we have more and more mandatory sentences, where they can't get off for "good time" — the reason we *like* all these 1980s-style Republican solutions is that *it makes us feel better.*

It does *not*, however, make the criminal feel better.

It makes him feel worse.

It makes him bitter. It makes him hopeless. And mostly it makes him mad.

Listen up. It doesn't *matter* whether we *feel better* or not. What matters is that we cut down the number of *future* crimes. And that means, when the guy comes *out* of prison, we should want *him* to feel better.

He should feel like he got just exactly what he deserved.

He should never feel like he got a whole lot *more* than he deserved.

If you wanna protect your stereo, and your sister, and your car, this is how you do it.

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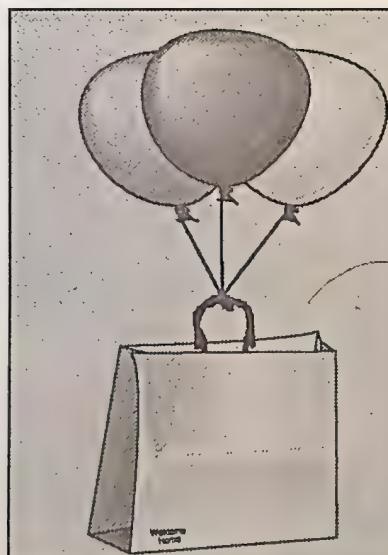
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TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT by L.M. Boyd

Ancient Greek fishermen made gloves out of fibers taken from mussels. If they dried out, they wore out, so the fishermen stored them in buckets of sea water, and they lasted longer than any other fiber of the time. They were so durable they were handed down from generation to generation.

Q. What was the interest rate the Pilgrims were charged for the \$7,000 they borrowed to come over here in 1620?

A. 43 per cent. It took them 23 years to pay it back.

Spain's restaurants open for dinner around 9 PM.

Near seacoasts, fish are sometimes found in streams and lakes where their kind never before existed. Wildlife experts say they were dropped there by waterspouts.

The largest snake in North America is the harmless Indigo snake, which can weigh in at more than 8 1/2 feet.

J.C. Penny's middle name was "Cash."

Q. Why is the Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio?

A. The American Professional Football Association (which evolved into the NFL) was organized with seven teams in Canton. The historic meeting was held in the showroom of Ralph Hay's car dealership.

Prisoners in Las Vegas are at liberty to telephone their bookies daily, and to deposit any winnings into their prison accounts.

In Maryland in 1635 you needed a license to hunt buffalo.

The name "doily" for a decorative napkin goes back to 1712 when a London linen draper named Mr. Doily first marketed them.

The Venus Flytrap ought to be called the Venus Anttrap, because ants are mostly what it eats.

The phrase "in cahoots with" comes from a French word for cabin: "cahute." You were in cahoots with somebody if you were camped out together in the same shelter.

The zipper didn't appear on Levi's jeans until 1955.

Some professional translators knit while they talk. Why? To control the compulsion to talk with their hands. Rapid to-and-fro conversations lead to conflicting gestures, which lead to what experts call "neurological chaos."

Italy is said to be the most dangerous target on earth of deadly natural forces: earthquakes, volcanoes, landslides, seismic waves, floods, and avalanches.

Young salmon go downstream tail-first.

Q. In the US, how many engaged couples live together now?

A. About 42 per cent.

Q. How often does it rain in the Amazon jungle?

A. About an hour every afternoon from January to June.

Teachers of adult literacy say adult students usually can learn to write simple letters in about three weeks.

Q. What was the greatest epidemic in human history?

A. Influenza, at the end of WWI. It killed 21 million people. Europe's bubonic plague in the mid-1300s killed a larger percentage of the population, but fewer people overall.

More than half of all US residents live within an hour's drive of an ocean beach.

Some who decline to have handguns in their homes say the best defensive weapon you can keep by your bed is a pool cue.

Market researchers claim stores that stay open five nights a week do half their business in the evening.

The heaviest of metals is osmium. If it were used to make baseballs, one osmium ball would weigh as much as 40 ordinary ones.

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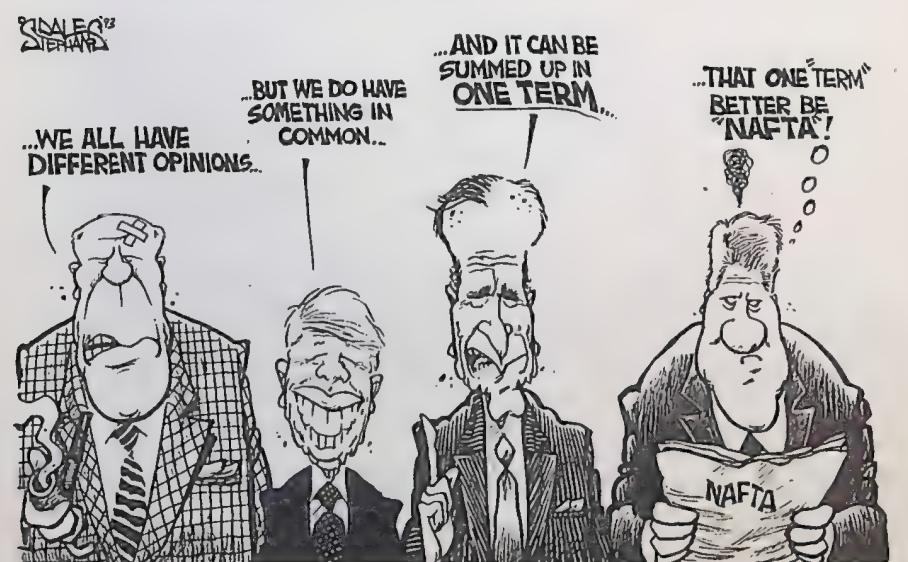
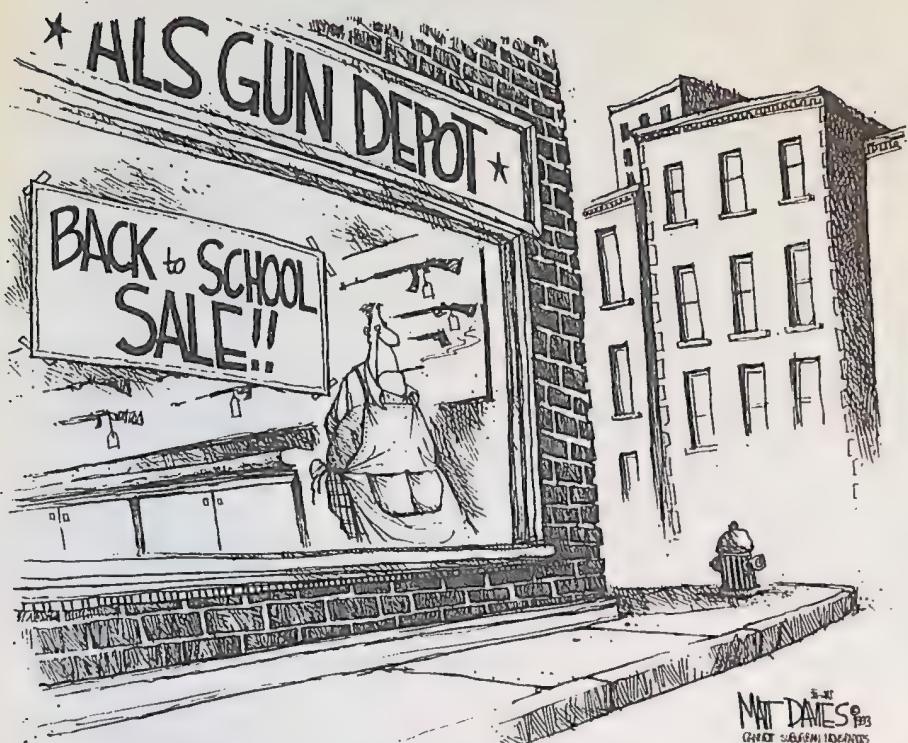
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THU
TWENTYTHREE

Vertex: Selectrocution Bay State Hotel: Bay State Cabaret — Joybang!, Wombat, Squeek, Dread Cross Seven O's: country karaoke North Star: Latin Night, w/ DJ Alberto Pearl Street: Physical Graffiti (Led Zep tribute), plus dancing, w/ DJ Panama Jack Dave's Other Place: Art Steele Blues Band Iron Horse: The Story, Ellis Paul Black Sheep Cafe: Gideon Freudmann w/ Carol Hamm

FRI
TWENTYFOUR

Hotel Northampton: South End Jazz Band Pearl Street: Rippopotamus, Electric Noodle Factory Iron Horse: Livingston Taylor, Don White Montague Bookmill: Peter Blanchette, Peter Michellini (classical arch-guitar) Green River Cafe: Bill Staines Dave's Other Place: Marion Groves Vertex: Operation Mindcrime (Queensryche tribute) Charlemont Inn: Bobby Darling Show 7 O's: Sundown North Star: dance party w/ DJ Betsey Bay State Hotel: Bark Like a Dog, Yep Peking Garden/Humor Works: showcase & open mic UMass New World Theatre: The Carpetbag Theatre — Dark Cowgirls and Prairie Queens

SAT
TWENTYFIVE

Bay State Hotel: Hoolapopper, Clockhammer, James Hall Band 7 O's: Sundown Vertex: Selectrocution UMass New World Theatre: The Carpetbag Theatre — Dark Cowgirls and Prairie Queens, plus Cric? Crac! (matinee) Green River Cafe: Little Jimmy & The Bad Boys Hotel Northampton: Hal Benoit, Dave Brunelle Dave's Other Place: Jiacomo Gates Iron Horse: Livingston Taylor, Don White Charlemont Inn: The O-Tones Pearl Street: dancing, w/ DJ Pete D. North Star: Kevin Collins (classical guitar), plus Dance Party Nite Montague Book Mill: Young Filmmakers Festival

SUN
TWENTYSIX

Seven O's: open mic Montague Book Mill: Song & Story Swap & Picnic (4 PM); Utah Phillips (8PM) Green River Cafe: Nancy Rockland-Miller (afternoon children's show); Andrei Ryabov & Michael Marcus North Star: Linne Saner, folk, plus Girlz Night Out w/ DJ Betsey Vertex: Fudge Tunnel, Painteen, Seasons of Risk John M. Greene Hall: Sankt Annae Youth Choir (Denmark) Iron Horse: Ben Demerath & Sugar Beat, Michael Kroll

MON
TWENTYSEVEN

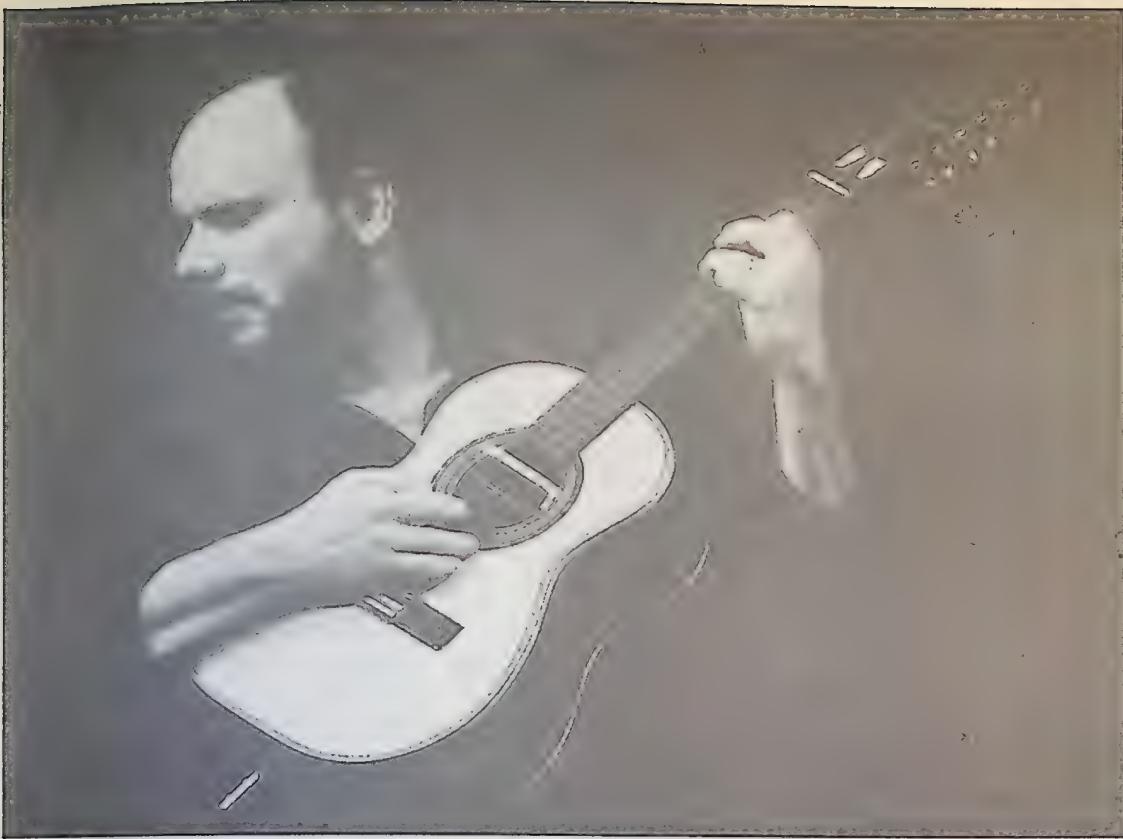
Bay State Hotel: Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights Iron Horse: Loudon Wainwright Vertex: Grateful Dead Nite — live tapes North Star: country/western dance nite (Intro 2-step & Zydeco Lady)

TUE
TWENTYEIGHT

Iron Horse: Adrian Belew North Star: Boyz Night Out w/ DJ Mike Vertex: Slowpoke (live recording)

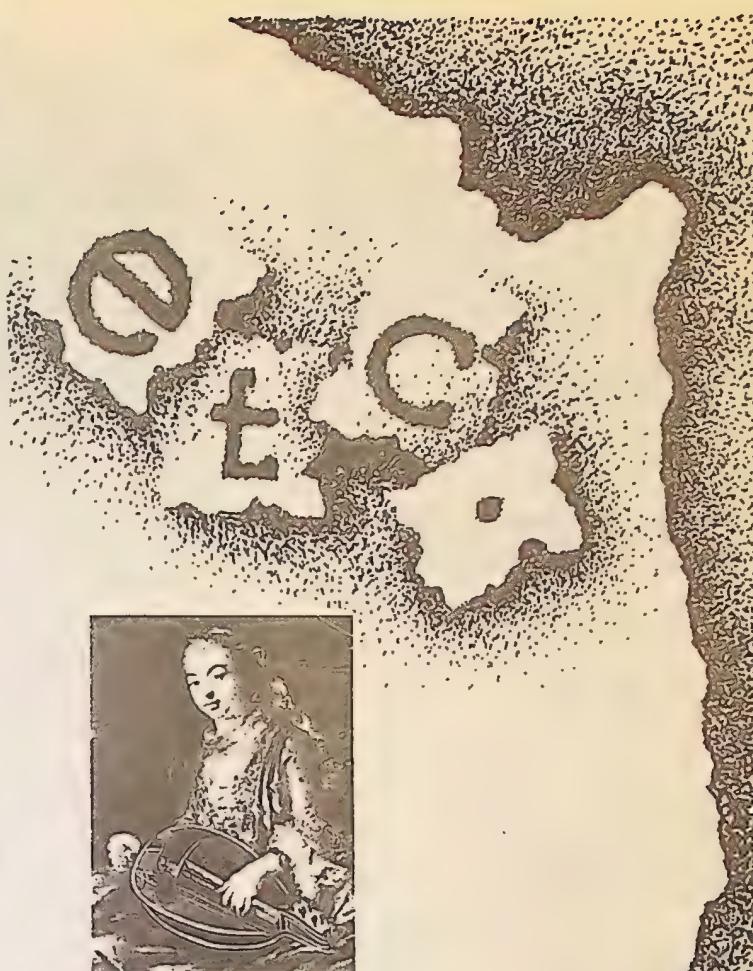
WED
TWENTYNINE

Iron Horse: John Gorka Pearl Street: Gay Night — dancing w/ DJ Dennis R. Bay State Hotel: Puppet Museum Vertex: Gay Night North Star: swing dance, w/ DJ Jim McDee Amherst College: John Wesley Harding Mullins Center: Lenny Kravitz & Blind Melon



Joe Belmont at the Iron Horse

Tobey photo



THU
THIRTY

FRI
ONE

SAT
TWO

SUN
THREE

MON
FOUR

TUE
FIVE

WED
SIX

Vertex: Selectrocution **North Star:** Latin Night w/ DJ Alberto **Bay State Hotel:** Rent Party, Bloom, The Duggans **Dave's Other Place:** Mark Nomad Blues Band **Seven O's:** country karaoke **Iron Horse:** Jimmy Thackeray **Pearl Street:** Back in Black (AC/DC tribute) **UMass Fine Arts Center:** Jhaveri Sisters Manipuri Dance Group & Nrityashree Indian Dance

Bay State Hotel: Swampgirl, Sleepyhead, The Allens **Green River Cafe:** Julia Burrough **Iron Horse:** Jonathan Edwards **Vertex:** A & E Showcase **Peking Garden/Humor Works:** showcase & open mic **Dave's Other Place:** Susan Duncan & The Boys of Blues **Smith College Sweeney Concert Hall:** Nathaniel Watson, Herbert Burtis (baritone & piano) **North Star:** Karl Rausch jazz band **7 O's:** Country Comfort **Pearl Street:** Zoo Station, plus California Playgirl Centerfolds **Charlemont Inn:** Bill Montague **Book Mill:** Bruce McKay & Handpicked (Lyn Hardy, Gideon Freudmann, Boo Pearson)

Dave's Other Place: CMI (Coherent Melodic Improvisation) **Bay State Hotel:** Stevie Sunshine Band **UMass Fine Arts Center:** Sharon Kam, Angela Cheng (clarinet & piano) **Pearl Street:** The Sighs **Iron Horse:** Larry Coryell **Green River Cafe:** Dean Stevens **Seven O's:** Country Comfort **Vertex:** Selectrocution **North Star:** Dance Party Nite w/ DJ Mike Kusek **Charlemont Inn:** Blue Pearl

Seven O's: Open mic **Montague Book Mill:** Valley Jazz Ensemble, dir. by Ed Byrne **Iron Horse:** Robbie O'Connell & Eileen Ivers **North Star:** North Star talent show, plus Girlz Nite Out **Green River Cafe:** American Café Orchestra

North Star: Country/Western Nite **Vertex:** Grateful Dead Nite — live tapes **Bay State Hotel:** Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights **Iron Horse:** Barry Crimmins **Northampton Center for the Arts:** Mal Thursday presents — Arthur Lee and Love

North Star: Boyz Night Out w/ DJ Mike **Iron Horse:** J. Mascis, Angry Johnny & The Killbillies **Pearl Street:** Jason & The Scorchers, The Swinging Steaks **Smith College Sweeney Concert Hall:** Karen Smith Emerson, John Van Buskirk, William Wittig (soprano, piano, flute)

Bay State Hotel: Dish, Mavis, etc. **Pearl Street:** Gay Night w/ DJ Dennis R. **North Star:** Swing dancing w/ The O-Tones **Vertex:** Gay Night, w/ DJ Betsey

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WED 29+

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THU 30

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SUN 3+

ROBBIE O'CONNELL &
EILEEN IVERS

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EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

Mediterranean Wildfires

A huge fire raged on the slopes of Mount Vesuvius while other blazes destroyed hundreds of acres of woods in Sicily. Arsonists are blamed for more than half of the 10,000 fires that have burned during the last two months of hot, dry weather across the Italian peninsula, Sicily and the isle of Capri.

In Greece, large forest fires raged out of control in several parts of the country, including the slopes of Mount Olympus. Low clouds prevented Greek Air Force planes from dumping water on the mountain, the fabled home of ancient Greek gods.

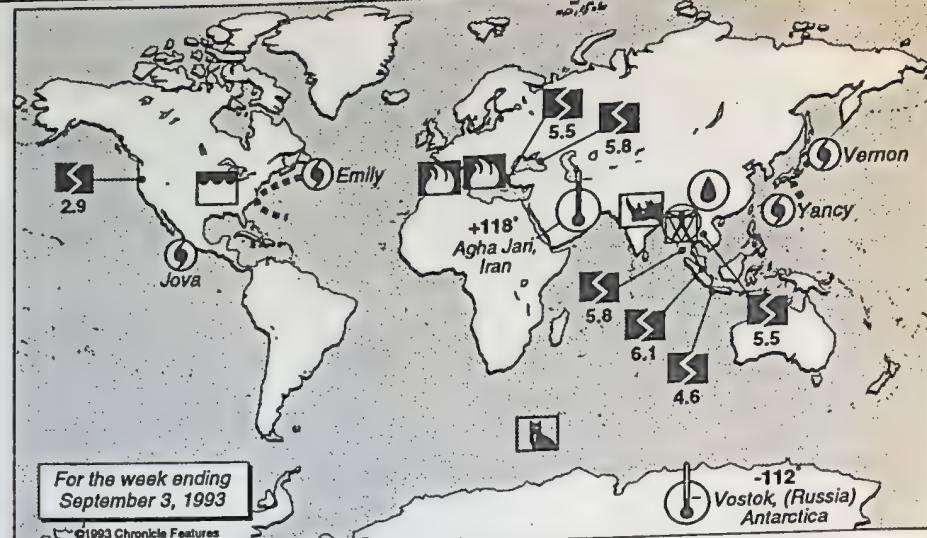
A massive blaze around Spain's Los Alcornocales nature reserve threatened an oil pipeline and blackened 2,500 acres of one of the world's largest cork-oak forests.

Another Round

As much as 10 inches of rain fell over already-saturated ground in the American Midwest, sending rivers and streams across central Iowa well over their banks for the second time this summer. Des Moines residents faced yet another long period of clean-up just weeks after being able to return to their homes. The city's water treatment plant, knocked out of service following the disastrous floods of July 10-11, survived the new rains intact.

Earthquakes

Oil tankers and merchant vessels were violently tossed in the Straits of Malacca when two quakes jolted the Indonesian island of Sumatra, causing some panic but no damage. Earth movements were also felt in the Caspian Sea region, the Nicobar Islands, eastern Romania, the Greek Islands, northern Burma, western Japan, Indonesia's Aceh province, southern Alaska and the Washington-Oregon border area.



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Tropical Storms

Typhoon Vernon drenched much of Japan as it brought strong winds and high surf to the entire stretch of Honshu Island and parts of Hokkaido. Rush-hour traffic in Tokyo was chaotic on the morning that the storm arrived, and almost all air traffic in the capital's airports was brought to a halt.

The North Carolina outer banks were dealt a glancing blow by Hurricane Emily which veered back out to sea after passing to within just a few miles of the barrier islands. The storm spawned tornadoes which wrecked several buildings.

Wall of Water

A dam burst in remote western China's Qinghai province, unleashing cascades of water which wiped out several villages and killed at least 223 people. Thousands of others were injured and many more missing following the disaster which occurred

just before midnight on Aug. 28. News footage from state television showed piles of rubble where buildings once stood, and soldiers digging through the mud for survivors.

Last Rhino

Game wardens in India's Laokhwa Wildlife Sanctuary found the carcass of the park's last surviving rhinoceros with its valuable horn cut off. The poaching wiped out the last of the 50 rhinos that once roamed the 30-square-mile park in the state of Assam. Wardens are having better luck protecting rhinos in nearby Kaziranga National Park where the animal's population rose by 31 to 1,160 during the past year.

Global Threat

A new strain of cholera, which triggered an epidemic in Bangladesh and parts of India, threatens populations around the world, according to the Dhaka-based International Center

for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research, Bangladesh. The disease, called "Bengal cholera" by health workers, was first observed in southern India's Madras state last year, then spread rapidly to the swamps of Bangladesh. It is especially virulent and no natural immunity has yet been developed for humans.

Feral Felines

Authorities on South Africa's Marion Island killed all of the territory's feral cats which were first introduced in 1947 to counter a plague of mice. The South African Broadcasting Corporation reported that Environment Ministry workers killed the cats by hunting them down, and by introducing a feline disease after the animals were found to be preying on the bird population rather than on the targeted mice.

Additional Sources: U.S. Climate Analysis Center, U.S. Earthquake Information Center and the World Meteorological Organization.

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Tropical Storms

 Mexico's Sinaloa coast took a direct hit from hurricane Lidia, which smashed houses, knocked out power, and forced thousands from their homes. A wide area of the Pacific coast state's farming and ranching region was swamped by between four and eight inches of rainfall.

Fierce winds from tropical storm Gert grounded fishing boats along Nicaragua's Atlantic shores, and its heavy rains forced Miskito Indians to evacuate their coastal villages.

Typhoon Abe skirted the northern Philippines before gaining strength and slamming into the Chinese coastline near Canton. Tropical storm Becky was threatening far northern islands in the Philippines late in the week.

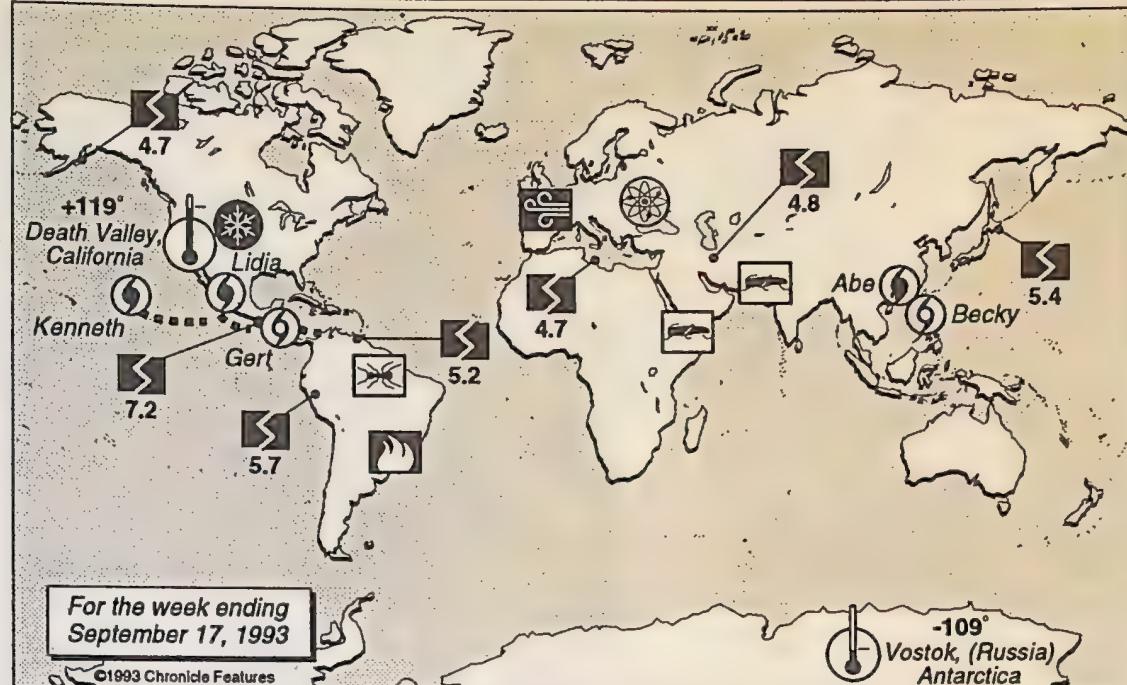
Earthquakes

 One person was killed and three others injured when a powerful tremor rocked a large area from southern Mexico to southwestern Guatemala. Rock slides blocked some roads in Guatemala, which was hit hardest by the quake.

Earth movements were also felt in south-central Alaska, the Italian island of Lampedusa, northern Iran, Hokkaido, northern Peru, and along the coast of Venezuela.

Wildfires

 Fires raged through old-growth forests in three national parks in southeastern Brazil where more than 700 acres of timber in Minas Gerais state have been destroyed. The Caraca, Vale do Rio Doce, and Joao Molevagem parks are sanctuaries for threatened plant species as well as jaguars, wolves, and precious hardwood trees such as the sicupira and jacaranda. The blazes were started by farmers clearing land for crops around the parks.

**Disarming Danger**

 Radiation and temperatures have reached dangerous levels at a nuclear munitions dump in Ukraine after personnel placed together an excessive number of decommissioned warheads. Russian Lieutenant-General Vitaly Vakolev told Itar-Tass that "the situation in Pervomaisk is a serious warning to the Ukrainian leadership about the necessity of a more balanced approach to the problem of nuclear withdrawal from their country. They must fulfill their agreement on the elimination of nuclear charges which are to be shipped to Russia."

Euro Winds

 Five people were missing at sea after high winds wreaked havoc along the coast of western France. Northern Brittany was raked hardest by the windstorm, which felled trees and telephone lines.

U.N. Warning

 The Food and Agricultural Organization announced that the desert locust situation has become "extremely critical" in East Africa, the Horn of Africa, and the southwest Arabian Peninsula. The U.N. agency believes that swarms could spread quickly to the north and east, threatening crop harvests in adjacent areas.

The Pakistan Army continued its air and ground assault on swarms of desert locusts threatening the country's vital cotton crop.

Taste of Winter

 The season's first arctic cold wave in North America plunged Denver's temperatures from the 90s to the 30s within hours, then dumped record early snowfall from the Colorado capital to Cheyenne, Wyo. Vivid electrical storms accompanied the cold front as it marched across the Great Plains to New England.

Fiery Invasion

 U.S. officials have been called in to help a remote Brazilian village on the banks of the Amazon cope with a dangerous invasion of fire ants. The siege began more than three years ago and almost everyone in Envira has been bitten repeatedly by the ants, which can inflict a pain much like a match burn. An army of millions of the insects is believed to have built a supercolony under the town, which is dotted with thousands of anthills. The community may have to be abandoned if the ants can't be controlled by insecticides. Ecological chaos caused by wholesale deforestation for farming is believed responsible for the fire ants becoming the only surviving species of ants. This has allowed its explosive population growth around Envira and other parts of the Amazon.

Additional Sources: U.S. Climate Analysis Center, U.S. Earthquake Information Center, and the World Meteorological Organization.

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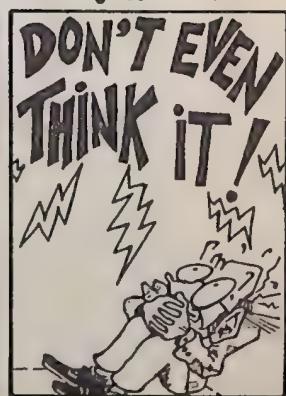
by Giles Hopkins

Star Shrinker

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by Dr. Rowdy illus. by K. Seidel.



THE FAR SIDE

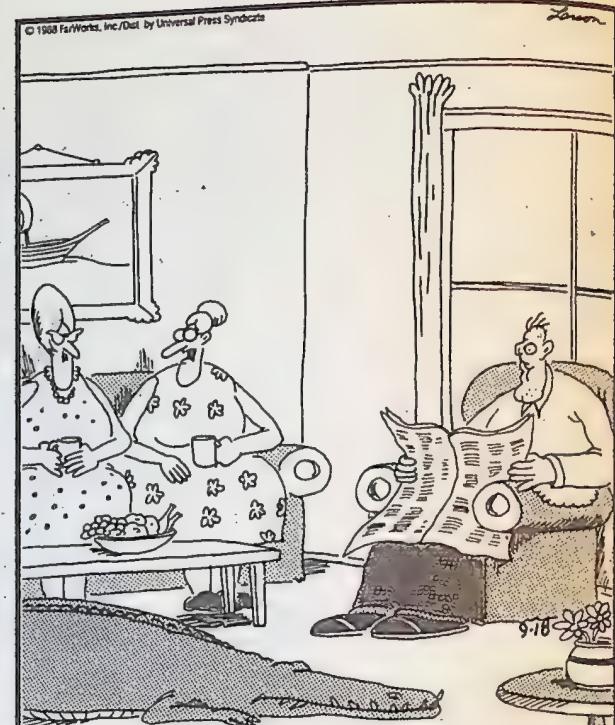
BY GARY LARSON



"Now, you can't hurt each other with those things, so next time you bicker, just go ahead and vent your anger—you'll both feel better."



"Sorry, ma'am, but your neighbors have reported not seeing your husband in weeks. We just have a few questions, and then you can get back to your canning."



"No, they're not real exciting pets—mostly they just lie around and wait to be fed—although a couple of years ago Charles tried teachin' him to take a cookie from his mouth."

DELICIOUS DELIVERIES

FIRST IN THE VALLEY!

50¢
OFF
All Ordered Dozens!

OFFER EXPIRES: Wednesday,
October 6, 1993

Cookies
Chocolate Chip
Chocolate Chocolate Chip
Oatmeal
Oatmeal Raisin
Oatmeal Chocolate Chip
Oatmeal Scotchies
Peanut Butter
Peanut Butter Chocolate Chip
Peanut Butter, Butterscotch



Ben & Jerry's
Vanilla
Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough
NY Super Fudge Chunk
Chocolate Fudge Brownie
Cherry Garcia
Wavy Gravy
Chunky Monkey
Mint Chocolate Cookie

Delicious Deliveries
HOT
COOKIES
and milk



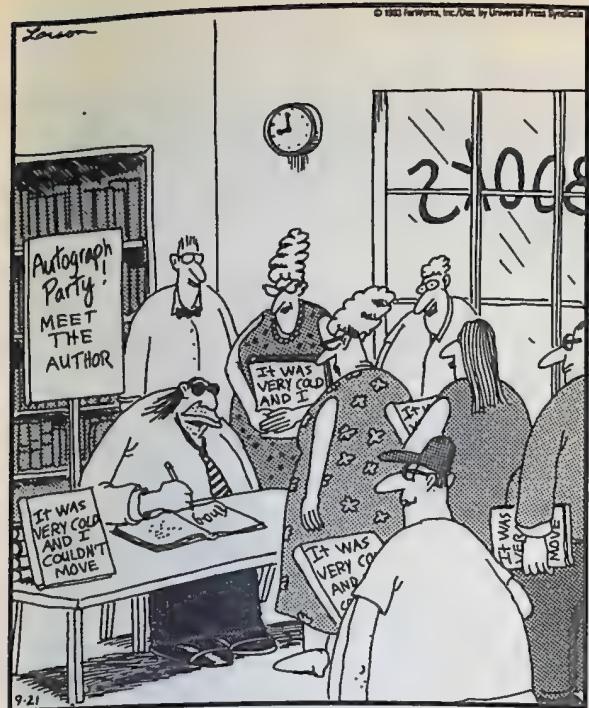
\$3.50

Ask
for the
Cookie
Man!

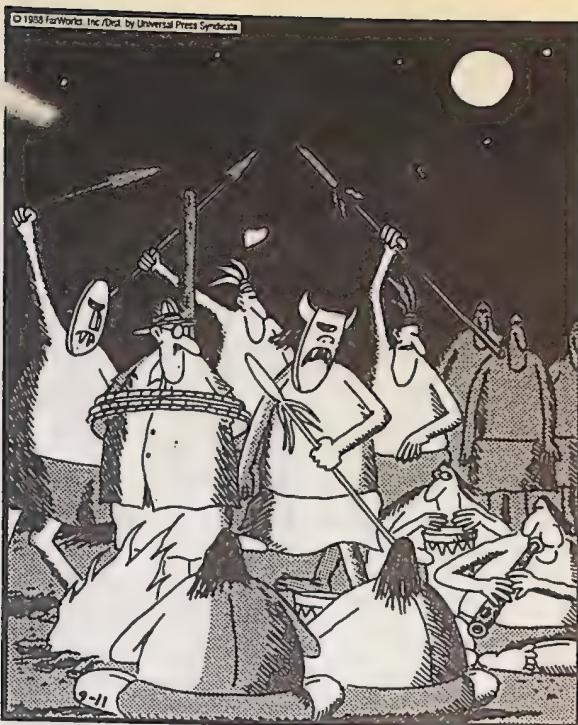
549-6494
DELIVERED

TO THE AMHERST AREA

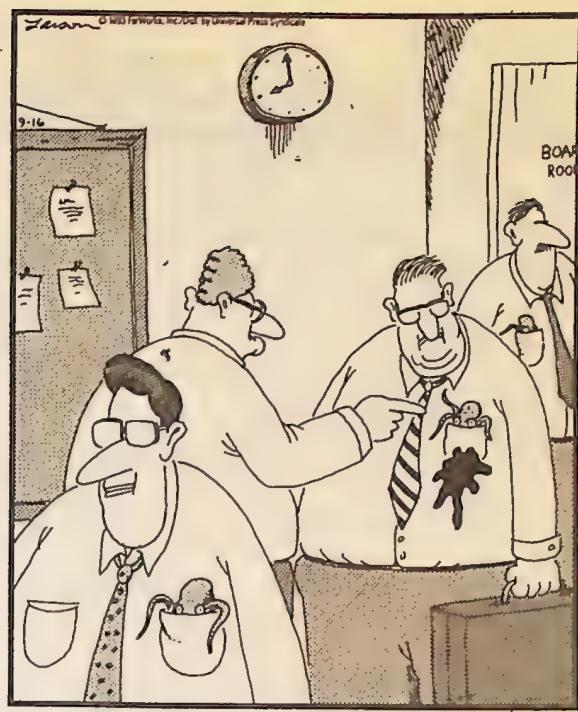
5 p.m. to 1 a.m. 7 days



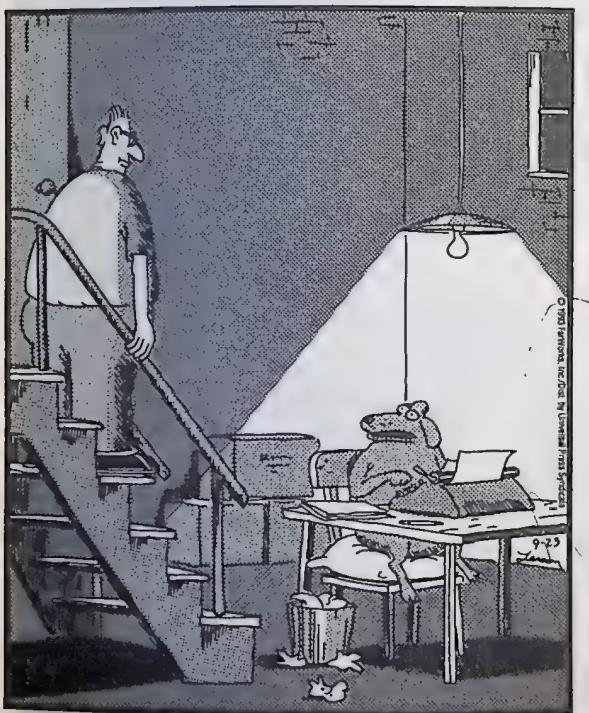
After being frozen in ice for 10,000 years, Thag promotes his autobiography.



Suddenly, throwing the festivities into utter confusion, Ujang begins to play "Stardust."



Once again, Vernon has a good shirt ruined by a cheap pocket octopus.



"I wouldn't laugh, Jack. ... I know things about you."



Misunderstanding his dying father's advice, Arnie spent several years protecting the family mules.



Scene from "The Crying Game II: the Rural Version"



At the Vatican's movie theater



Vacationing from their jobs of terrorizing young teen-agers, zombies will often relax at a Western dead ranch.



Vegetarian towns of the Old West

Leold
by Roger&Salem Salloom

My friend Wallace is a mellow smart guy.

He's an African American graduate student.

He studies audio physics at the university.

He thinks it's amazing that

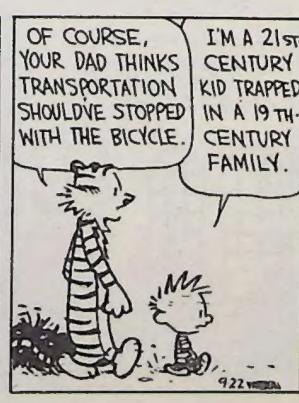
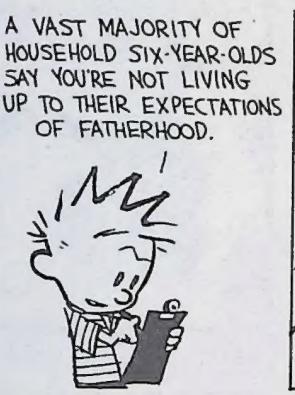
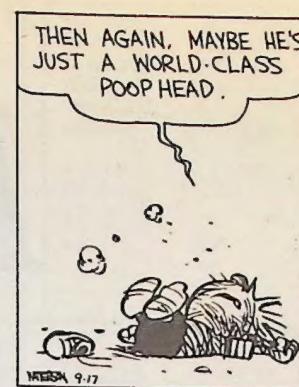
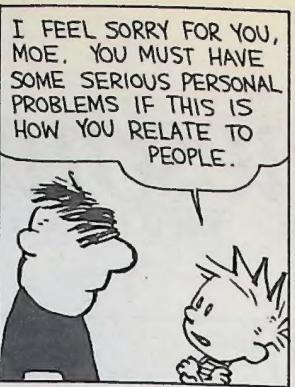
when he is standing on a street corner and a fancy car pulls up, even though the windows are closed tight he can still hear all four automatic door locks click.



calvin and Hobbes

by BILL WATTERSON





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FUN PRINT QUILT JACKETS • GIFTS • MULTICULTURAL CARDS • TEA POTS • EARCUFFS • TIE-DYE TEES • SUNGLASSES • BELLS • BEAD CURTAINS • SWEATERS • PODDRUMS • FUNNY AND/OR P.C. BUTTONS • EASY RETURNS • THINK GLOBAL - SHOP LOCAL • LOCAL SKIRTS • COTTON SKIRTS • THE MERCANTILE HAS CANDLES AND INCENSE!

humor me

by Izzy Gesell

Better get those thumbs limbered up. Pretty soon we, the American television viewers, will have the option of selecting from over 500 channels. This wonderful opportunity gives us in the Valley a chance to expand our influence and trend-setting reach. No more waiting for isolated, sensationalistic, misguided dribs and drabs from *Newsweek*, *Billboard* or *20/20* about our lifestyle. It is now time to start designing the Pioneer Valley Channel. Can't you just see it? Sweeps week on our very own PVC....

6 AM: 12-STEP AEROBICS. Get your Styrofoam cup of coffee and start the day with a fitness method guaranteed to get both your outer body and inner child moving. Since you alone are responsible for any injuries from now on, we begin with a slow, 10 minute stretch of the rationalization muscles; then it's on to the activity. All levels of aerobic ability, from high-impact higher power accepting to low-impact serenity granting, will be accommodated.

6:30 AM: BLARNEY. A kids' show starring Soupy Sales as a purple pterodactyl who ostensibly preaches tolerance and good manners to enraptured children. When the tape is played backwards, he can be heard teaching the young 'uns how to steal money out of their parents' pockets.

7 AM: NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO TV SHOW. The television show for those who claim never to watch the thing. Host Cokie Roberts joins guests Cindy Crawford, Beavis, and Butthead for a discussion about misogyny in the New World Order. Beavis & Butthead are forced to reveal they are really the Tappet Brothers from *Car Talk*. The laugh gives them away.

9 AM: BILL MOYERS TALK SHOW. In this latest version of the popular TV format, Moyers interviews people with radical ideas and unpopular lifestyles-our neighbors on the fringes of American society. Slated to appear are smokers who refuse to huddle in doorways of office buildings, radical pessimists who claim a constitutional right to be negative thinkers, a man who visualized Elvis during a relaxation class, and most shocking of all, mothers who exercise with their daughters' boyfriends.

NOON: COOKING WITH GAS. An entertaining and practical cooking show that always has an artful answer for that perennial epicurian question, "What more can I do with beans?" This week, Chef Pietro dons a chicken costume for a tour of a tofu factory. In the viewer call-in segment, he helps an elderly woman who has eaten but can't get full.

2PM: THIS OLD MANTRA. Wavy Gravy travels the country searching for broken-down ex-hippies, puts them on an old school bus and brings them to Yasgur's Farm in upstate New York. There they construct the world's largest bed & breakfast for the expected hordes of visitors to the concert commemorating the 25th anniversary of Woodstock.

3PM: GENERATION X-SPAN. The telecast that takes a complex political issue and puts a human face onto it. This week's interview is with a group of former Hampshire students who want to reconfigure the entire Interstate highway system into a bike path. They would allow cars only within a small strip on the side of the road.

4PM: THE RELAXATION RESPONSE. A fast-paced game show that pits two contestants against all the stressors of modern living as well as each other. The audience chooses a relaxation method for each of the participants. The first player to be totally relaxed without slipping into a coma is the winner.

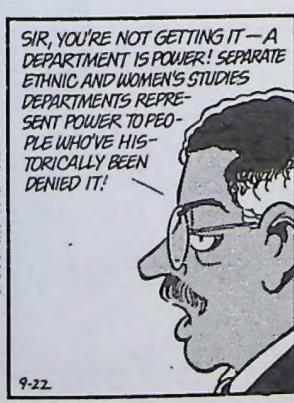
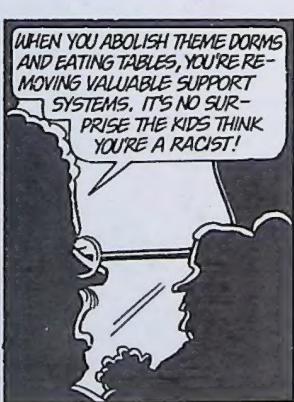
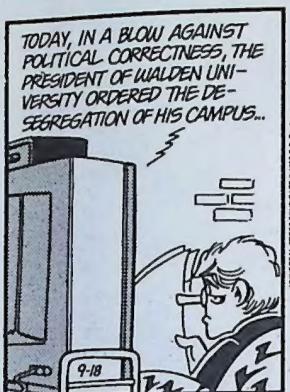
8PM: COVERT BAILEY AND THE FASTFOOD FRANCHISES OF DOOM. This action-adventure show is produced by Steven Spielberg and directed by George Lucas. Fitness guru Bailey appears at a different fast food emporium each week. While delivering an entertaining seminar on fat and exercise to the patrons, he fends off swarms of managers and armies of restaurant employees, all trying to throw him out.

10PM: THE BATTY DUKE SHOW. A hilarious sitcom about two identical stepsisters who co-own a catering business. One eats healthy; the other exists on junk food. This episode concerns the madcap antics which occur when the order for the regional dietitians' meeting gets switched with the food meant for the Cheesedoodle Lovers Convention. Dom DeLuise and Richard Simmons guest star as the keynote speakers.

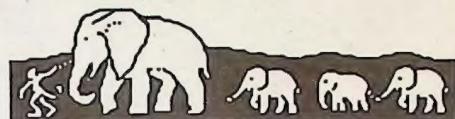
Doonesbury

BY G.B. TRUDEAU





KARAVAN IMPORTS



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63 Pleasant St. (rear)
Behind Bonducci's
Amherst • 253-7722

104 Federal St.
Greenfield
774-3701

CONTEST

MATCH THE QUOTE
TO THE CORRECT PEOPLE

Fill out this page, tear it out
& mail or bring to:
Bicycle World Too,
63 S. Pleasant (rear),
behind Bonducci's, Amherst

1. "Just gimme a crate full of tea, the wide open sea and thou."
2. "Even if I couldn't hypnotize royal families into carrying me around on their shoulders, running at a fast clip... I would still get the most kicks riding fast on a bicycle."
3. "Hell. The sound of the riders at night clamoring through some filthy back alley of Paris, it's enough to make me want to write more long-winded novels about sweat and tight spaces."
4. "If I wasn't pounding nails into these roofs all day...I'd be riding my bike on the farm."
5. "Damaging my million dollar bod is the only thing that keeps me off of one...that and all my checks go to the Church of Scientology."
6. "You know how to ride, don't you? Just put both feet on the pedals...and push."
7. "When I finally leave this house...I'm gonna ride out, down the front steps on a big black mountain bike with shocks. I'm Nobody and I don't care who you are!"
8. "I have two guns mounted on each of the handlebars...anyone tries to stop me from taking my 9 o'clock ride around the city...they're gonna be spirin' red an' over the pavement."

**A. Rasputin-
the Black Monk**

B. Sam Adams

C. Lauren Bacall

D. Emily Dickinson

E. Henry Miller

F. Jimmy Carter

G. Janet Reno

H. Tom Cruise

Contest Expires: Friday, October 8, 1993

WIN:

1st PRIZE

NiteSun Lighting System
value \$220.

2nd PRIZE

Specialized 5.0 Headlight
value \$49.95

3rd PRIZE

Cateye Halogen headlight
value \$19.95